



**US Army Corps
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Jacksonville District

NEWS RELEASE

Release No.: NR0808

For Release: 1 Feb. 2008

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers advises caution in crossing Lake Okeechobee

CLEWISTON, Fla. – The South Florida Operations Office of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District has issued a notice to navigation interests on Route 1 of the Okeechobee Waterway, which crosses Lake Okeechobee.

Due to drought conditions, the lake level today is 10.07 feet. The depth of Route 1, which cuts roughly across the center of the lake, is 4.01 feet. The Corps advises boaters that if they transit Route 1, they are doing so at their own risk and should observe the following:

- a. Available depth can be temporarily reduced by winds.
- b. Extra precautions may need to be taken due to prevailing weather conditions at any given moment.
- c. Boaters must adhere strictly to channel markers for Route 1 and avoid uncharted waters.
- d. Boaters should be aware that depths could drop at any time.

Route 2 (the Rim Canal) of the Lake Okeechobee Waterway is now closed due to the shallow channel depth.



Landowners are now experiencing pump cavitations localized to an area two miles west and one mile east of the bridge, which crosses the C-44 canal at 710 just south of Indiantown. Boaters are asked to reduce wakes in this area.

Restricted depths are now occurring along Route 1 at the Route 2 split just west of the Port Mayaca Lock, and the Clewiston Channel from the Channel Marker 1 west to Channel Marker 10.

Additional information concerning Lake Okeechobee and adjoining waterways may be obtained by accessing the Corps website at <http://www.saj.usace.army.mil> and linking to the Navigation and/or Water Management selections on the menu.

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